

Accordingly, it will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that still further changes and modifications in the actual concepts described herein can readily be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosed inventions as defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing one or more secure transactions between a first entity and at least one additional entity, comprising the steps of:

(1) generating a Secure Card Number ("SCN") for the first entity, wherein the SCN is comprised of:

- (a) a Transaction Information Block ("TIB");
- (b) a Counter Block; and
- (c) an encrypted Personal Identification Number ("PIN") Block;

(2) transferring the SCN and a first entity identifier to a second entity in a first transaction;

(3) transferring the SCN and the first entity identifier from the second entity to a money source; and

(4) verifying that the first transaction is valid with the money source by use of the first entity identifier and the SCN.

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2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the SCN is transferred to the money source in an account number and the first entity identifier is transferred to the money source in a non-account data field.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first entity identifier is transferred to the money source as an account number and the SCN is transferred to the money source in a non-account data field.

4. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the TIB can be used for invoking one or more restrictions on use of the SCN.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the TIB is used by the money source to determine whether the SCN should be a single-use SCN or a multiple-use SCN.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the TIB is used by the money source to identify a physical device used to generate the SCN.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the encrypted PIN Block is formed by using a Triple Data Encryption Standard algorithm ("TDES") to encrypt a PIN Block.

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8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the PIN Block is generated from a PIN associated with the first entity, a Sequence Insertion Number ("SIN") and a starting value known to both the first entity and to the money source.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the SIN is a combination of a first set of seed values and a random value generated by a Pseudo Random Number Generator ("PRNG") that was initialized with the first set of seed values.

10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the first set of seed values consists of three seed values.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the first set of seed values is associated with a Counter value.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the Counter Block is associated with the Counter value.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the money source validates the SCN by duplicating a PIN Block encryption process used to create the encrypted PIN and by then comparing the result to the encrypted PIN Block received with the first transaction.

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14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the SCN is a nine digit number, the SCN Type is a one digit number, the Counter Block is a four digit number, and the encrypted PIN Block is a four digit number.

15. A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the encrypted PIN Block is created by dividing an 8-byte Sequence Insertion Number ("SIN") into four 2-byte integers, adding the PIN and a pre-assigned constant 4-digit value to each of the four 2-byte integers, concatenating the results to form an 8-byte input block which the TDES encrypts into an 8-byte output block, dividing the 8-byte output block into four 2-byte integers x1, x2, x3 and x4 and then using integers x1-x4 in Formula 1 to produce the 4-digit encrypted PIN Block with a value P, wherein Formula 1 is $P = (Ax1 + Bx2 + Cx3 + Dx4) \bmod 10000$, each of the values A, B, C and D being pre-assigned odd integers.

16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein each of the three seed values and the random value is a 2-byte integer.

17. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein an electronic card generates the SCN.

18. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein a PIN is entered into an input device to generate the SCN.

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19. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the SCN and first entity identifier are transferred to the second entity in a form.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the SCN is transmitted through an Address Verification System Billing Address.

21. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein a unique SCN is assigned to each first entity which is valid only for mail order, telephone order, or internet transactions, and which can be used for multiple transactions with multiple merchants.

22. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the second entity uses the SCN to authenticate the first entity.

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